

A  
CERTAINE  
AND  
PERFECT RE-

LATION OF THE ENCOVNT-  
TER AND BLOODY SLAUGHTER  
which is newly happened betwene the Mar-  
quesse *Spinolas* forces, and the forces within the Towne of  
*Breda*, occasioned by the enemies surprisall of a wood  
who at length tooke it in, by which meanes he is ap-  
proched very neere to the Towne, although with  
the losse of a great number of his men, and five  
of his chiefeft Commanders.

With the copie of a Letter sent by the Marquis  
*Spinola* to the Archduffes of Austria, the which was inter-  
cepted by the Prince of Oranges horsmen, to this ef-  
fect, openly shewing his priuate intent for what cau-  
ses he must of necessitie leaue the siege of *Breda*,  
and would haue done before now, had it not  
*beeene that hee must haue indangered to haue  
left his Ordnance behind him.*

Likewise a confirmatiue rehearsall of relieuing the Towne  
of *Breda* after a new inuention, with the Prince of Oranges  
designes, both to annoy the enemy, and drowne  
their trenches.

Printed at *London* by *B. A.* for THOMAS ARCHER, and are  
to be solde at his shop in Popes head Alley, ouer against  
the signe of the Horse-shoe, 1625.

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A  
REL T I O N    O F  
A L L   T H E   P A S S A G E S  
which happened betweene the Campe of  
*Spinola*, and the Towne of *Breda*, as wee are  
credibly certified, and certainly  
*informed.*

**I** doubt not, but it is without doubt that it hath  
beene newes to most men, that they haue beene  
so long without newes; but there is onely one  
supreme power, whom the Wind and Seas obey:  
as for man, he must purpose, but God determines,  
for howsoeuer it was was our desire to satisfie the  
desire of men, whose nature is, *novitatis amida*, yet  
through the aduersitie of the winds wee were fru-  
strate a long time of our intelligence, neither were  
the winds onely opposite to our appetites, but wee  
were hindred by another vnfortunate distaster, for  
a Pinke, of which one *Blastoule* of Flushing a  
duchman was owner, in the which, the Post from  
*Holland* was a passenger, and was unhappily sur-  
prised and taken by the Dunkerkes, all the men in  
it being captivated and carried to Oastend, the

which vessell was chiefly loden with English Merchants goods, which according to estimation did amount to the value of twelue thousand pounds sterling, one of those which were to be transported in it, haniug at the least a thousand pounds in gold about him: neither was there likely to haue beene a period of the Spaniards prise, for *Blastone* himselfe in another Pinke of his, was too neere a companion in the like danger, being likely to share with the former ship in the same misfortune, but he most luckily espying the other Pinke taken (as report and fame informes vs) did speedily retire homeward, by which flight (as most men coniecture) he made a safe and successfull escape out of the Paws of his enemies and hee was freed from the furie of his foes.

Left therefore our intelligence from Breda might seeme strange and fabulous to many people, and they may giue no credit to our Relation concerning the passages in that place, in regard that they may suppose wee could not attaine to the knowledge of these affaires: these are to notifie vnto them, that although indeede, wee haue had nothing to vnderstand, according to our former manner and forme of receiuing intelligence; yet by another accident wee haue accomplished it: for although indeede by the contrarietie and opposition of the winds, wee could not enioy the  
Newes

Newes of forraine parts , yet by the meanes of the land passengers wee haue purchased the possession of them, for there was a Post which passed through Flaunders into France, and so from Calice sayled to this our soyle, by whom we haue this intelligence.

Howsoever, indeede it is still confirmed, that the Italian and the Quarter Van *Paulo Baglion*, were compelled to remoue, and their Forts dimolished by the late invndation of the Marke : and there was a two-fold ayde afforded to the Towne by that meane, in regard there was not onely a carrying in, of all necessarie prouision, but also a bringing out of the lame impotent people, who were fit for no employments, that might either procure the safetie or securitie of the Towne, whose feeble limmes beeing vnable to support themselves, did rather preiudice then promise preservation to it, yet notwithstanding, the Towne hath not receiued reliefe after such a measure, though in some manner aforesaid.

Moreouer, *Marquesse Spinola* hath of late hit a Marke which he long aymed at, for whereas there was a great dense thicke wood, seated betweene

tweene his Leager and the Towne, lying neere ad-  
 ioyning to the way from the Towne to Antwerp,  
 bordering vpon one of the corners, the which they  
 laboured by all possible meanes to detaine his for-  
 ces from the entrance, in regard it would no lesse  
 aduantage their enemy, then indamage themselves:  
 for who is ignorant what odds it is for their aduer-  
 sary to haue his forces so incamped, that they shall  
 haue libertie at any time to assault and batter the  
 Towne, the which they might more opportunely  
 doe, in regard they were neerer adioyning to it, and  
 safely retire afore they had requited the iniury  
 which they had receiued; all which benefits the  
 wood could affoord them, in regard they being  
 planted in it, might charge the Towne without di-  
 scouery, and in the meane time themselves bee ob-  
 scured from the sight, and so secured from the shot  
 of the inhabitants; the which wood *Spinolas* forces  
 haue lately gained, whereby they are neerer the  
 Towne, and haue hope to make more powerful and  
 successfull assaults against it. Thus you haue heard  
 the fortunes of our foes forces, and the successe of  
 of their enterprises; but as I will not bee partiall of  
 our side, so giue mee leaue to speake the truth, and  
 let mee not onely bee the relater of bad, but also  
 the Messenger of glad tidings, and let mee mingle  
 honey with my gall, that as the good successe of  
 our enemies may make vs humble, so the prosperi-  
 tie of our friends may make vs thankfull.

For although the forces of *Spinola* got entraunce into the Wood: yet with much difficultie and great effusion of blood. For the Towne perceiuing the proiect, and discerning the drift of *Spinola*, labour to hinder and stay him from attayning to his intended scope, and to withhold him from the ends of his intents, who seeking the safety of the Towne, and endeavouring to prevent him of his purposes, sallied out to see if they could giue him the repulse, when as they did with no lesse valour defend themselves then to offend their aduersaries, and behaued themselves with such vndanuted courage, that with a little losse of their owne men, they ouerthrew fiftene hundred of the enemies. In which combat impartiall death which knocketh aswell at the Portalls of Princes pallaces, as at the doores of poore mens cottages, arrested fve of *Spinolæ*s chiefe Commaunders who were slayne in the company. Thus though they gained the wood, yet they lost their blood: the which as it hath beene flesht the inhabitantes of the towne (who still are earnest and humble suiters to God to be their protector, and to rayse them some friends, which may rayse the sledge of their enemies,) So it can not choole but a little fright and teare *Spinola* to see the towne so strong; though after so long a

B

most

siege to encounter with him, nay I had almost sayd to conquer him and giue him the ouerthrow.

Neuerthelesse, I dare say the Towne could wish that either the Wood were fired, or their foes farther from it, for the remoouall of whom, it is supposed that the Towne and the Prince of *Orange* hane intended this stratagem, *viz.* To cut a ditch in the banke of the riuer, whereby since they cannot fire the wood, they will drowne it: and so force them by that meanes to forsake it, the which is probable and likely to be done, in regard of the aboundance of raine which hath lately falne in those parts, doth threaten such a deluge without their assistance, and without the putting off their art or armes, in execution, so that notwithstanding the Towne doth still retayne a strong hope and firme perswasion, that they will be forced to loose that wood, (which indeed is now to them a strong fort and bullwarke) with no lesse sorrow then they found it: which if as they do, it will be very benifitiall; so if they do not, it will bee very preiudiciall and harmful vnto them.

Neither

Neither let me omit to relate the late bur-  
riall of the five Commaunders of *Spinolaes*  
campe , as I haue formerly told you of their  
departure , who after they had giuen ouer  
the wearisome pilgrimage of this life , their  
corps were carried in a cart to *Antwerp* : who  
after long lamentation and much mourning  
for the losse of so worthy captaines and cou-  
ragious leaders made by the liuing people ,  
and the excessiue sorrow of the Marquesse for  
the being depriued of those in whome the  
anchor of his hope of conquest was whol-  
ly fixed , they referred their bodies to the  
wombes from whence they first had being ,  
and committed them to the earth , which is  
the matter out of which all men are produ-  
ced.

Moreouer wee vnderstand that the Prince  
of *Orange* by a new strange vnheard of Strata-  
gem , doth dayly and houely intend to send  
succour and reliefe vnto the towne , for he  
hath inuented certaine flat bottome boates,  
which draw very little water, that he may saile  
in any place of the riuer as conueniency doth  
require : in which boates he hath aswell plan-  
ted pieces of Ordinance aboue deck , as pla-

ced Muskatiers below, whereby he may send deadly messengers to those enemies that are remote aswell as those that are propinque and neere at hand : whereby it is to be hoped for, that will the enemy, or nill he, he will transport sustenance vnto the towne, for the waters deny the enemy such free accessse as formerly he had, and likewise this new deuise doth carry more likelihood of helping the towne to necessary prouision.

Neither is there onely this probability doth promise them assistance, for they haue certaine succour by this meanes which followeth: For some men being led as by the ardent zeale and affection which they beare to the towne, as the mortall hatred which they owe to the enemy, haue shaken hands with, feare and valiantly ventred their liues for the assistance of their friendes, who hauing made themselves long boates which doe come vp to their croth, they doe vsually waide through the water, and by stealth carrie vpon their backes burthens of bread and butter, whereby the towne doth reape no small reliefe.

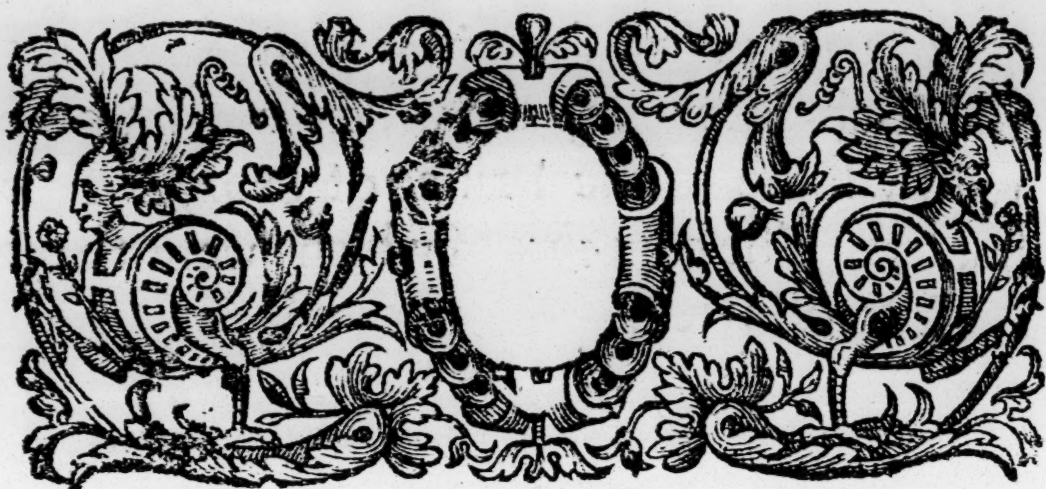
(II)

We haue likewise in telligence by the copie of a letter sent from Marquesse *Spinola*, to the Arch-dutcheffe, the which was intercepted by some of the Prince of *Oranges* Freebooters: The contents of which were to this effect as followeth.

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To





TO THE ILLVS-  
TRIOUS, HIGH AND  
Mighty Princeſſe, *Isabella Clara*  
*Eugenia, Austria, Infanta of Spaine,*  
Dutcheſſe of *Burgundie*, and  
*Brabant*, Counteſſe of  
*Flanders.*



MOST Illuſtrious Prin-  
ceſſe: There is no man  
can build vpon the cer-  
tainty of fate in this  
World, for Fortune  
is alwayes fickle, con-  
ſtant in nothing but in-  
conſtancy, and like the  
Moone euer changing, for who doth ſurely  
know

know, or can determine the successe of, the Warres, or who can diue into the drift of destiny, humane frailty in this transitory life, is like a Ship sayling vppon the Ocean, sometimes driuen by a prosperous Gale of Winde to the wisht for Port, and desired Hauen: And sometimes hauing a repulse by an aduerse Winde, intertayneth no hope of helpe, but is ready euery moment and each instant of time, to be rackt vppon the Rocke of misfortune, and to be swallowed vp in the depth and abisse of misery.

I need not range abroad into Forraigne nations for an example, alas I haue a tast of the same greife in my owne bosome: for it is not consealed from your gracious highnesse, nor yet obscured and hidd, from the intellect and vnderstanding of most parts of Christendome, what hopes (and them not built vpon the sands of vnlike'yhoods, but euen all most certainties, if there bee certaintie in sublunary affaires) iustly wee had conceiued of the captiuating of the besieged Towne of *Breda*.

The which did languish, with the scarcity of able men, and of food, and sustenance, so that indeed I had not the least doubt, but that  
either

either I should force them to yeald, or famish them.

But when it came to the vpsshot, and our hoped for conquest seemed to grow to ripenesse and maturity, the heauens did seeme to crosse our proiects, and to set a *non plus ultra* to our designes.

For seeming as if they had fought against vs, and powerd downe ayd to our enemies, there fell such great store of rayne as it remoued two of our quarters, and ruined the forts; by which meanes the Towne receiued releife from the enemy, and doth *resumere vires*: and gather strength, like a sicke man recouerd: the feeble are growne powerfull, the dispayring hopefull, the cowardly coragious, and howsoeuer formerly their hearts seemed as it were broken, yet now like a bone once crackt and reset, they are growne more strong and able: they haue victuall sufficient to serue them halfe a yeere, as the generall report informes vs: but wee are not able so long to continue the sledge, in regard of the tediousnes of the winter, which our mens constitucion cannot tollerate.

As

as also in respect of the sicknesse in our Campe. The impotencie and weaknesse of our men, who seeme a great deale more fitter to entertaine a Coffine, then to maintaine a Combatte : And whose Bruised and Brocken Bodies are redy to surrender their Soules into the hands of their Creator. Neither am I any waies able to make a full discription of our wants, which are almost past relation. For how are wee able to continue the Siedge, or withstand our Enemies, which doe of all sides inuiorne vs, and before and betweene threaten destruction to our Campe, whose forces doe still threaten destruction to our Campe. For what if Count *Manſſielde* should set vpon vs, who as they are transcending vs in power, soe they are fresh, able of body, valiant of minde, full of vigor, and couragious, and so in euery respect vnequall matches, to omitte to speake of the Prince of *Oranges* army which doth continually labour to intercept our prouision, and to serue vs with the same sauce wee prouided for the Towne, whose forces being thought not aboue ours in respect of the warres, yet farre more powerfull in regard they

haue their full of Victualles, which now doe lye incamped at *Roscendale*, alwaies watching occasion to effect that, which they menace too with our ouerthrow, but I cannot forget, neither the scarcitie of money, as well as meate in our Campe, which indeede bee the very Sinewes of the warres, which hold the Companies together, for it is probable, that the Souldiers will not continue their Siedge, except we continue our pay. Will they lye in the cold? indure the hunger, nakednesse, and all the miseries, almost this world can inflict vpon a man, and haue noe gaines for their paines?

The Husband man will nor longer plow that ground, which yeeldes him noe increase, the Marriner saile into that Countrey, from whence hee can haue noe Traffique, nor the Souldier serue that Captaine, which cannot pay him, it is the want of meate, from whence weakenesse, and sickenesse haue their birth, and it is the want of money which is the Mother of mutinge, which force-  
eth

eth forces to flye from their colours, hunger breaketh stone walles, much more causeth the Souldier if his legges will giue him leaue, or if hee bee not to feeble to walke, to forsake his Commander in the open field.

In deede my army is perplext with millions of miseries, for Nakednesse hath taken possession of my Souldies backes, hunger of their bellies, cold, of their persons, pouertie of their purses, and that I may include much matter in one word, they haue no obiekt but feare on all sides, and wee hope of flight of any.

Tis true; wee haue lately taken a wood the entrance of which the Towne did a long time defend and keepe from vs, the which indeede is neere to the Towne and somewhat advantagious to vs, in regard that nature hath so fortified, and made it fitt for our purposes: but yet wee haue smale hope, of the long fruiti-

on of it, in regard there is more then probable possibilitie that they will remooue vs out of it, in regard, that the bankes of the Riuer are so sweld, with the late and long continuance of rayne, as we haue little hope: and much feare, that they will force vs out of it, by letting in the water vpon it; for it lyeth somewhat low, and the Riuer may with small difficultie, make an inundation ouer it.

Thus haue I participated vnto you: most accomplisht Princes, all the affaires our Armie, and miseries of our men, which are so exceeding; that in my opinion, if I may speake it, with your consent and approbation, it is best to relinquish the seidge, and find some other employment for our Souldiers, the which indeede, howsoeuer it may seeme very difficultie to remoue my Army without the losse of my Ordnances, and great Peices, for it is to be feared, that they cannot so spedily be brought away, as the men and more light Munition.

Yet

Yet it is better agreeable to sense, and hath more harmony with Policy, to loose a limme, then to hazard the whole body, and to endanger some of the members of our Army, then to preiudice & ouerthrowe all our forces? Thus haue I done my duty in relating vnto you, the the summe and substance of all the passages, betweene the Towne and our Campe, and desire to knowe your pleasure; for my pulses beate according to the disposition of your Royall heart, who am in readinesse to inact, whatsoeuer you shall direct me.

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FINIS.

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